



## Pleasant Hill Branch N.E.W.S.

**Now/Events/Women/Success**

**Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy,  
education, philanthropy and research**

VOLUME 53 ISSUE 5

JANUARY 2011

### DNA : Can I see it?



Please join us and our featured speaker and local branch member Maria Fletcher. Maria will be presenting a Powerpoint presentation on DNA. The opportunity for a hands-on activity (lab extracting DNA from  strawberries) for all attendees will follow her speech. Research in this area has undeniable benefits but also poses many moral, ethical and political questions with global implications. Maria, who was born in Brazil, will also talk briefly about her early life and education. She received her Doctorate in Genetics at U.C. Davis. She currently teaches science at Ygnacio Valley High School. It will be an interesting night. Hope to see you there!

Plus our

### Annual Soup Supper

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

6:30 - 9:00 pm

Hillcrest Congregational Church

404 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA

*Spouses, significant others and friends are invited*

*Please bring your own soup bowl and spoon*

*Bread and drinks will be provided*

Each attendee may choose to provide one of the following:

A pot of soup to serve 8 to 10 people

A dessert to serve 6 to 8 people

A \$5 donation at the door

Please RSVP to Kit DeGear by Monday, 1/17/11 (609-8150) or [kdegear@gmail.com](mailto:kdegear@gmail.com)





## Presidential Duo Report

Happy New Year! Hard to believe it is 2011 ~ even this 21<sup>st</sup> century is speeding along.

This month is our International Soup Supper and we hope that all of you will be able to attend. The soups are always outstandingly delicious and the program promises to invoke some thoughtful comparisons between the women in the U. S. and women in Brazil. Be sure to put this date on your calendar.

Registration is now open for AAUW Convention 2011! The site is Washington D.C., June 16<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup>. The theme will be "Breaking through Barriers – Advocating for Change." This convention will also be a celebration of our 130<sup>th</sup> birthday! You can register by going to <http://convention.aauw.org> Why not plan a trip to D.C. with your family, or a group of friends?

Another SAM program will be starting at Fair Oaks Elementary soon. Be sure to let Mary McGhee or Marilyn Tubbs know you are interested in helping with this program. The Fair Oaks library was very appreciative of all the books we donated ~ mostly collected at our Holiday Party. Also, games and toys for the "store" on Thursdays.

See you at the Soup Supper!

The Duo

*Dear AAUW members,*

*The staff and students of Fair Oaks would like to thank you so very much for the donation of books. They are very much appreciated.*

*Wendy Axhelm  
Library Media Teacher*

## 2010– 2011 Leadership Team

### Presidents:

Jean Hambleton 798-2344  
Marlene Maksel 689-5439

### Vice Presidents Program:

Ginny Hargrave 798-2370  
Jeannette Holmes 942-0801

### Vice Presidents – EF:

Waiting for a volunteer

### Vice President's Membership:

Suzanne Salter 935-0861  
Marti Martin 229-3574

### Vice President – LAF:

Kathy Searles 228-5700

### Secretary:

Gayle Garrison 798-7528

### Treasurer:

Marilyn Tubbs 939-6220

### Newsletter Editor:

Kit Hein 228-7503

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AAUW Help Line: 800/326-AAUW

<http://www.aauw.org/>

### CA AAUW Office

Amanda Hawkins,

Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper

Email: [office@aauw-ca.org](mailto:office@aauw-ca.org)

Web Page: <http://www.aauw-ca.org/>

### NEWS editor and CCC IBC Chair:

Kit Hein

Email: [kjhein@comcast.net](mailto:kjhein@comcast.net)

Copy deadline for Feb. N.E.W.S. is Jan. 15th.

*PHAAUW N.E.W.S. and lots of other branch information can always be found at*  
<http://www.phaauw-ca.org>

## INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS



**\*\* MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, 5 January, 10 am, at Gayle Garrison's. We will be discussing *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett. This has been a very popular book and is set in Mississippi in the 60's. A recent Ole Miss graduate, Skeeter decides to write an expose about the black women working in her home and her friends' homes. Please join us for a great discussion. In February we will be reading Pascal Mercier's *Night Train to Lisbon*.



**\*\* IN INDELIBLE INK** will meet on Wednesday, 12 January, 10 am, at Marti Martin's. In December we had to cancel our meeting, so our topic for January will still be "Miracles." Have you experienced a miracle, know someone who has, or do you believe in miracles?? Come and hear what others have written, if you don't want to write anything yourself. We hope to see you!



**\*\* NIMBLE FINGERS** will be at the home of Jeannette Holmes on Thursday, January 13th, 2011 at 10:00AM. Please let Jeanette know if you can come. 942-0801 or [jholmes1226@hotmail.com](mailto:jholmes1226@hotmail.com). She lives at 233 Tono Lane in Walnut Creek.

Special thanks to all of you, and especially Margi, who participated in the layette party at Margi's. It was a huge success.



**\*\* MATINEE IDLE** will go to the movies on Thursday, 27 January. We are back on schedule with the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month. Call Marlene (689.5439) if you are planning to attend, or if you have any good suggestions for a movie. We always discuss the movie after over coffee or other liquid refreshment.



## **\*\* BRIDGE**

**Monday Night Bridge** will meet (1st Monday), Jan 3rd, 2011, 7P at the home of Elizabeth DiPietro.



## **The Grand Slammers**

Grand Slammers will play on 2nd Monday, Sept. 13, at 12:30. Call Gayle Garrison 798-7528 if you would like to play. Each player contributes \$3.00 to Scholarship fund...and new this year...prize for high and low. We have lots of fun and welcome both members and non-members to play.



**\*\* EVENING BOOKS** will meet on Monday, 24 January, 7 pm at Marti Martin's. We will be discussing *Nefertiti* by Michelle Moran. This is a fictionalized story of the notorious queen told by her younger sister ~ also a debut novel for the author and the book has been highly praised. See you there??!

### **Many asked after the holiday party☺**

#### **Chiles Rellenos Casserole – Elizabeth DiPietro**

4 (7oz) cans whole green chiles (Ortega type) or 1lg. ( 27 oz) can Anaheim chiles  
1 lb Jack cheese, grated  
1 lb mild Cheddar cheese, grated  
3 eggs beaten  
3Tbsp flour  
1 small can evaporated milk  
1 (15 oz) can tomato sauce  
Wash chiles, open, remove seeds, lay flat & pat dry on paper towels.  
In a 13x9 inch ungreased baking dish, layer half the chiles, then half the cheese. Repeat the layer but save approx. 1 ½ cups cheese for topping. Beat the eggs, add flour and milk until blended. Drizzle the egg mixture over the chiles and cheese. (The casserole can be refrigerated at this point, if desired.) Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Spread tomato sauce evenly over the top; sprinkle with the reserved cheese and bake 15 min longer. Cut into squares to serve. Makes 10-15 servings.  
Optional: You may add avocado slices, flaked, cooked chicken, etc. to the first layer. Sometimes I add small/medium black olives after the first baking for perhaps a more attractive serving dish. Garnish with fresh cilantro or parsley if desired.

## Membership Matters

Suzanne Salter & Marti Martin

During the first part of December, we held two informational/social evenings at the home of Margi Alkire. The two groups of current, new and prospective members were welcomed by Margi's festive holiday decorations and the delicious food she prepared for both nights. We were able to share information about AAUW and have some time to get acquainted. We hope to see them at many future functions.

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to our two newest members. Please add their names to your directory.

### Nancy Schwemberger

1280 Panorama Drive,  
Lafayette, CA 94549

Phone: 925-284-7097

Email: [schwemm@juno.com](mailto:schwemm@juno.com)

She graduated from UC Berkeley and is interested in gardening, reading, needlework & politics.

### Ilene Linssen

24 Burnham Court  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Phone: 925-288-1366

Email: [emlisa@comcast.net](mailto:emlisa@comcast.net)

Ilene graduated from UC and earned two master's degrees: an MA in French from CSU Hayward and a MA in Education from USF. She is interested in foreign travel, languages, reading, cooking, gardening, culture and many other things.

If you know someone who would be a great AAUW member, please invite her to join you at an interest section or activity or give her contact information to Suzanne or Marti.

Long time member, Greda Strauss, who was a faithful member of morning books, has moved to Palo Alto. She sends greetings to all her PHAAUW friends. Her address is: 4075 El Camino Way, Palo Alto, Ca. 94306. Telephone 650-494-0216. She asked, and I told her the books we are reading this year.

Gayle Garrison

## In Sympathy

Our sympathy goes out to Marlene Maksel on the death of her mother. Services will be held in Ukiah next Monday. Marlene's mother was a frequent visitor at branch events over the years and will be missed.

Our member, Pat Delaney Fiorelli, passed away on December 18, and her services were held on December 22.

Pat has been a member of PH AAUW for several years, and enjoyed Festa Italiana and Books. She retired after 35 years of teaching business education at Pinole Valley High School. She was a dear friend of Bernice Ball, and she was a leader in Friends Abroad. She loved to read, travel, and entertain. PH AAUW will miss her. Pat also considered Margi Alkire one of her dearest friends.

PLAN AHEAD – SEND PHOTOS  
A KOFFEE KLATCH IS COMING IN  
FEBRUARY

*A chance to sit and chat with Danish in  
one hand and Koffee in the other...*

Our topic will be TITLE IX, a law passed in 1972 that requires gender equity for boys and girls in every educational program that receives federal funding. It has been particularly effective for women and girls in school sports programs.

SOOOOooooo to show our own past athletic activities, send Ginny Hargrave a copy of your team picture in school, or in your gym outfit, or you playing tennis or jumping the hurdles—whatever. We will have our own prowess on display.

Oh, come on, you do have one in your scrap book or photo album. I do, bloomers and all. Be a sport and share some fun with fellow members and young women guests. Best of all there is a PRIZE for the member who recognizes all of them. **SEND YOUR PHOTO TO GINNY**

**BEFORE FEB. 8.** Thanks from the

Program Co-Chairs

Ginny and

Jeannette

## **PUBLIC POLICY**

Susanne Rheingruber

Throughout our history, AAUW has advocated for equitable funding of public education as the foundation of a democratic society. Although California is a state rich in resources, human talent, and industries, our elementary and secondary schools have been financially challenged for many years. In a nationwide survey the Public Policy Institute of California found that adjusting for costs, California's per pupil spending ranks near the bottom and California's pupil-teacher ratios are among the highest in the nation. Already Governor Brown has indicated further cuts to Education are likely in his 2011 budget.

As an AAUW member, what can you do?

- Become informed. There are a number of non-partisan sources of information about education policy in California, [www.edsource.org](http://www.edsource.org), [www.ppic.org](http://www.ppic.org), [www.cbp.org](http://www.cbp.org), [www.lao.ca.gov](http://www.lao.ca.gov) to name a few.
- Encourage your branch members to form a Study Group about California education using the research such as California 2025, a PPIC multidisciplinary, multi-year research project. Develop recommendations.
- Attend the March 18, 2011 EdSource Forum in Irvine: The Future of Public Education in California and report back to your branch and your Inter-Branch Council (IBC).
- Write "factoid" articles for your branch newsletter throughout the year explaining what underfunding education means to the future of California. Write letters to the editor or an op-ed article for your paper.
- Visit elected state representatives to discuss the recommendations of your Study Group. Let your congressional representatives know your position regarding federal assistance to education in California.
- Forward your recommendations to AAUW CA Public Policy Committee; request that they be reviewed, shared with other branches and communicated to elected officials in Sacramento.

### **"Comedy of Errors" at the DVC Theatre Tech Trek Fundraiser**

**February 6th, Sunday at 2:30pm  
Cost: \$30**

Buying senior tickets (60 and over) will allow a greater percentage to go to the fundraiser, can we buy a senior ticket for you??

**Comedy of Errors** was an early Shakespeare work and is the story of two sets of identical twins who were accidentally separated at birth. It displays a series of mishaps based on mistaken identities.

**Please RSVP by January 15th** so we can get the group rate!! Mail checks payable to PH AAUW to Trinkia March 650 Linden Lane, Martinez, CA 94553  
Questions?? [DrTrinks@sbcglobal.net](mailto:DrTrinks@sbcglobal.net) or 372-8420

**If you cannot attend, but want to support Tech Trek, we will happily take donations!**

## **COMMUNITY**

Jill Anderson

### **Chamber of Commerce Crab Feed**

Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup> 2:00 PM-8:00 PM \$40 pp  
Mr. Lucky's - Pleasant Hill Road  
Phone 933-7778 for ticket information  
Proceeds to Firefighters "Bikes for Tykes"

### **Chamber of Commerce Mixer**

Wednesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM  
Outback Steakhouse - Longbrook Drive

### **Lion's Club Crab Feed**

Friday, January 21<sup>st</sup> 6:00 PM \$45 pp  
Community Center-Civic Drive  
Phone 676-5859 for ticket information

### **Mayor's Breakfast**

Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup> Details to be announced

### **Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District**

The recently elected Board of Directors was announced.  
Sandra Bonato, Chair - 925-938-5433  
Dennis Donaghu, ViceChair - 925-937-8283  
Bobby Glover, Secretary - 925-954-7070  
Cecile Shepard 925-680-1987  
Sherry Sterrett 925-687-2888

# January 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 Morning Books	6	7	8
9	10 Bridge	11	12 In Indelible Ink 10am	13 Nimble Fingers 10am Grand Slammers 12:30pm	14	15 RSVP "Comedy of Errors" tickets
16 Chamber of Commerce Crab Feed	17 Soup supper RSVP deadline	18	19 <u>International Soup Supper 6:30pm</u>	20	21 Lion's Club Crab Feed	22
23	24 Evening Books 7pm	25	26	27 Matinee Idle	28 Mayor's Breakfast	29
30	31					

**SAVE THE DATE:** Feb. 6 – "Comedy of Errors" at DVC for Teck Trek; Feb. 8 – send in your athletic photos;



Pleasant Hill Branch  
533 Roanoke Dr.  
Martinez 94553

Membership – AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research. AAUW is open to all graduates of two year accredited colleges with AA degrees and/or accredited four year colleges or universities. In principle and practice AAUW values and supports diversity. There shall be no barriers to full participation in the organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.